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The Indiana State Emergency Response Commission's Quarterly Newsletter *Fall 2002*

EPA Anounces Homeland Security Strategic Plan

One of Many Efforts to Ensure Agency's Ability to Protect, Respond, and Recover

October 2, 2002

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman today announced EPA's Strategic Plan for Homeland Security. The plan is intended to support the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security and the efforts undertaken by a new Department of Homeland Security. Since November 2001, EPA, at the direction of Administrator Whitman, has been examining its mission as it relates to homeland security. Using its core mission of protecting public health and safeguarding the environment, the senior leadership of EPA has closely examined the role of EPA in protecting against and responding to any future terrorist attacks.

The Agency's Strategic Plan identifies goals in four mission-critical areas. The plan will serve as a blueprint for the Agency's senior leadership on how to enhance EPA's ability to meet its homeland security responsibilities. The activities and initiatives in the plan represent an enhancement of EPA's capabilities to detect, prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist incidents. The plan is one of many steps the Agency took in the weeks and months following September 11th to ensure the Agency's ability to fulfill its homeland security responsibilities. As the federal government continues to address the issue of protecting the nation, the plan will continue to be revised and improved. Some of the activities identified in the plan may eventually be carried out by the new Department of Homeland Security or other agencies.

"As President Bush and Governor Ridge have emphasized, we all have a role to play in homeland security," said Whitman. " The EPA Homeland Security Strategic Plan we are releasing today is designed to ensure that this Agency is doing what it should to meet its responsibilities as part of that effort."

"I commend EPA for their work on their Homeland Security Strategic Plan and hope that it will serve as a model for other departments and agencies," said Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge. "As we continue our efforts to defend the Homeland, it is important that we have well thought- out strategies so that our resources can be targeted to the most urgent priorities."

The goals of the plan announced today are separated into four distinct mission areas: critical infrastructure protection; preparedness, response, and recovery; communication and information; and protection of EPA personnel and infrastructure. The strategic plan unveiled today lays out goals, tactics and results in each of these areas.

In addition to announcing the Agency's proposed strategic plan, Whitman signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, one of our federal partners, designed to enhance the Agency's work with the Center with respect to biological contaminants in water.

Finally, in coordination with the Office of Homeland Security, EPA is developing a National

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In This Issue

Chairman's Corner

by Patrick R. Ralston, Chairman, Indiana Emergency Response Commission

Greetings, Everyone. I want to welcome Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer as the Indiana Emergency Response Commission's (IERC) field coordinator for southern Indiana.

The Columbus resident previously served as Deputy Director of the Bartholomew County Emergency Management Agency where her duties included acting as liaison between the county and the Columbus Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team, and and has been active in IERC activities.

She replaces Manuela Johnson who was named Director of the State Emergency Management Agency's (SEMA) new Anti-Terrorism Division. Kathy hit the ground running. As soon as she started she joined field coordinator Ian Ewusi-Wilson for a weeklong training session at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chicago office. Both are now certified CAMEO instructors. Anyone who needs help with the new version of CAMEO can contact one of them for assistance.

The IERC is losing a longtime friend and supporter. Gary Colby retired from the Commission on September 9th to devote more time to his personal life. A replacement has not yet been named by Governor Frank O'Bannon. Gary's role as Chair of the Fiscal Committee will be filled by Steve Wettschurack. Steve has a world of experience and will do a fine job.

Speaking of experience, just ask Steve about the massive Comprehensive HAZMAT Emergency Response-Capability Assessment Program (CHER-CAP) exercise in Tippecanoe County in August. Over 100 responders participated in the event that featured three simultaneous scenarios: a police chase that resulted in a propane tank's and a weapon's landing in a lake, a collision with a railroad car resulting in a hazardous materials incident, and a school bus accident.

I want to thank Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd and IERC board member Sherman Greer for hosting the September IERC meeting. The meeting was originally scheduled for May, but massive flooding that affected most of southern Indiana forced a postponement. I feel holding meetings in different parts of the state encourages local interaction with the IERC and leads to increased participation.

On September 17th and 18th, SEMA hosted the EPA Region V/ U.S. Coast Guard Cleveland District Regional Response Team meeting in Indianapolis. It was well attended by participating representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Topics included response, planning, training, and coordination. We also hosted a U.S. Department of Transportation Haz Mat training session for Midwestern states. Over 300 people attended. Feedback about the facilities and the City of Indianapolis was overwhelmingly positive.

The Governor's Summit on Homeland Security on October 2nd attracted more than 500 people from Indiana and surrounding states. The consensus was that uniform training for all agencies and better communication are needed to fight terrorism. Information gathered from the participants will be used to develop Indiana's Strategy on Homeland Security. I was moderator of a panel on mutual aid agreements. The other participants were SEMA General Counsel Brad Gavin, FEMA Region V Director Edward G. Buikema and Fort Wayne Fire Chief Tim Davie. My thanks to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for putting together such a fine program.

On November 12th, the first of a series of shipments of radioactive waste was scheduled to leave Battelle Memorial Institute's West Jefferson, Ohio laboratory bound for Hanford, WA. It will consist of a convoy of three flatbed trucks carrying one cask each. Inside each cask are ten 55-gallon drums of solid radioactive waste. This waste is from bomb research done at the lab during the past few decades. It will pass through Indiana. SEMA conducted training for the

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Decontamination Team, a cadre of highly specialized and experienced emergency responders, engineers and scientists dedicated to providing immediate technical decontamination expertise at the scene of a chemical, biological, or radiological attack.

Over the past several years, various Presidential Decision Directives and other orders have assigned EPA responsibility for some very important aspects of homeland security. These explicit responsibilities include being the lead federal agency charged with helping to protect the nation's water infrastructure from terrorist attack, being the lead agency responsible for the cleanup of any biological or chemical attacks, and having significant responsibilities in certain radiological attacks.

More recently, President Bush's National Strategy for Homeland Security names EPA as the lead federal agency for reducing the vulnerability of the chemical industry and hazardous materials sector of our nation's critical infrastructure.

EPA for the past year has been committed to assessing its homeland security responsibilities and capabilities. In addition to calling for the development of the Strategic Plan unveiled today, Administrator Whitman directed the Agency to undertake a thorough "lessons learned" study to determine what the agency had done well and what things needed to be done better in response to the September 11th attacks.

Since September 11th the EPA has taken a number of steps to ensure its abilities to meet its homeland security responsibilities. The Agency is adding 75 response staff personnel to strengthen its ability to respond simultaneously to multiple incidents. In addition, the Agency is providing advanced training and state of the art equipment to those who will respond to any chemical, biological, or radiological incident and is establishing a new Environmental Response Team West in Las Vegas to provide a quicker response time to any incidents that may happen in the western United States. The Agency has already awarded nearly $50 million in grants to the nation's largest drinking water facilities to assess their vulnerabilities and make security improvements and upgraded its Cincinnati facility to handle level three contaminants. Last week, Whitman announced a Homeland Security Research Center in the Agency's Cincinnati labs to coordinate research in areas such as building decontamination, rapid risk assessment and drinking water protection.

Attached are the Agency's goals in each mission area. To view the Agency's strategic plan in Adobe Acrobat format, log on to ***www.epa.gov/epahome/downloads/epa_homeland_security_strategic_plan.pdf***

For more information on this format, see EPA's PDF page.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Goals

1. EPA will work with the states, tribes, drinking water and wastewater utilities (water utilities), and other partners to enhance the security of water and wastewater utilities.
2. EPA will work with the states, tribes, and other partners to enhance security in the chemical and oil industry.
3. EPA will work with other Federal agencies, the building industry, and other partners to help reduce the vulnerability of indoor environments in buildings to chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) incidents.
4. EPA will help to ensure that critical environmental threat monitoring information and technologies are available to the private sector, Federal counterparts, and state and local government to assist in threat detection.
5. EPA will be an active participant in national security and homeland security efforts pertaining to food, transportation, and energy.
6. EPA will manage its Federal, civil, and criminal enforcement programs to meet our homeland security, counter-terrorism, and anti-terrorism responsibilities under Presidential Decision Directives (PDD) 39, 62, and 63 and environmental civil and criminal statutes.

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FIELD NOTES

by

Ian Ewusi-Wilson and Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer

Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer

Hello, All. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new southern district LEPC field coordinator. My name is Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, and I replaced Manuela Johnson, who has moved on to the position of director of the Anti-Terrorism Division of the State Emergency Management Agency. I am very excited about the new challenges of working with the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) in the southern half of Indiana.

Before accepting this new position, I was the deputy director of the Bartholomew County Emergency Management Agency and also the secretary of the LEPC. I served in both capacities for the last 10 years and learned a great deal about emergency preparedness. I was also a search and rescue instructor with NASAR and I just recently retired my K-9. Currently, I am a Harrison Township firefighter, an emergency medical technician, and a hazardous materials technician. I am also a heart instructor for CPR and AED, and serve as the coordinator for the South Central East Critical Incident Stress Management Team in Bartholomew County.

On a personal note, I am married to David Dwyer, and we have 4 children, 3 sons and a daughter. Michael, our oldest, is currently studying mechanical engineering at Purdue University. Matthew, the next oldest, is a senior at Columbus North High School, and James, the youngest boy, is 3 years old. Our daughter, and youngest in the family, li'l Miss Elizabeth, will be 2 years old in January. You may have already surmised that we are very busy as a family, as most of you are, but still manage to participate and contribute to various community activities.

Ian Ewusi-Wilson

I bring to the southern district some knowledge in grant writing and a lot of experience working with our LEPC and Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team. In September, my partner, Ian Ewusi-Wilson, and I attended a CAMEO instructor course to learn the new CAMEO Software. We are looking forward to bringing this new CAMEO knowledge to all interested parties. We will be scheduling classes with you on one-to-one bases or in group formats in the very near future. We are also preparing to send out notices regarding the 2003 Tier II reporting period. We hope to meet your expectations in this regard. Please feel free to contact me with questions/concerns from your LEPC. I look forward to meeting you, if I have not already, and to working with you. You may email me with your LEPC meeting agendas and minutes at kddwyer@sema.state.in.us or call 812-342-6447 (home station) or 317-234-2583 (Indy office).

Shelter in Place Appropriate Tool At the Right Time

Under the right circumstances, sheltering in place is an appropriate tool for protecting the public from a chemical leak. For leaks that last only a short time, it is faster and usually safer to shelter in place than to evacuate. That was the main finding of a study of chemical accidents completed by the National Institute for Chemical Studies (NICS), when officials used sheltering in place as a way to protect the public.

The degree of protection that a shelter provided depended on how airtight the building was and how long it was exposed to toxic chemicals. Weather conditions and the public's behavior can also affect the level of protection, according to the study.

In the cases studied, no fatalities resulted from sheltering in place. Some injuries were associated with the incidents, but the study concluded that it was impossible to tell whether the injured people had sheltered in place. NICS conducted the study with a grant from the USEPA. The complete 48-page study is available for downloading in PDF format on the NICS website: ***www.nicsinfo.org***

(Adapted from an article in *nicsnews*, Winter 2001)

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Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Goals

1. EPA will be prepared to respond to and recover from a major terrorist incident anywhere in the country. To do this, the Agency will maintain trained personnel and effective communications, ensure practiced coordination and decision-making, and provide the best technical tools and technologies to address threats.
2. EPA will communicate to Federal, state, and local agencies the Agency's roles, responsibilities, authorities, capabilities, and inter-dependencies under all applicable emergency plans. The Agency will also understand the roles, responsibilities, authorities capabilities, and inter-dependencies of its partners.
3. EPA will support and develop the preparedness of state, local, and tribal governments and private industry to respond to, recover from, and continue operations after a terrorist attack.
4. EPA will advance the state of the knowledge in the areas relevant to homeland security to provide first responders and decision-makers with tools and the scientific and technical understanding they need to manage existing or potential threats to homeland security.

Communication and Information Goals

1. EPA will use reliable environmental information from internal and external sources to ensure informed decision-making and appropriate response.
2. EPA will effectively disseminate timely, quality environmental information to all levels of government, industry, and the public, allowing them to make informed decisions about human health and the environment.
3. EPA will exchange information with the national security community to prevent, detect, and respond to terrorist threats or attacks.
4. EPA will continually and reliably communicate with employees and managers.

Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure Goals

1. EPA will safeguard its employees.
2. EPA will ensure the continuation of the Agency's essential functions and operations.
3. EPA will maintain a secure technology infrastructure capable of supporting lab data transport and analysis functions, 24x7 telecommunications to all EPA locations, and management of critical data and information.
4. EPA will ensure that the Agency's physical structures and assets are secure and operational.

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TRANSCOM tracking system in early October so we can keep track of the waste as it moves across the state.

The stockpile of Agent VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot is now being stored in safer facilities. The entire stockpile of 1,269 tons in 1,690 carbon steel containers is no longer in a metal warehouse. The containers were moved safely and without incident to other sites on the depot grounds where they are in reinforced concrete igloos.

I hope you enjoyed the IERC/Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana annual conference. We will have details in the next edition of the SERCULAR.

'Til next issue.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Factors to Consider When Using TRI Data

Introduction and Background

Following the fatal chemical-release accident in Bhopal, India, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was enacted in 1986 to promote emergency planning, to minimize the effects of an accident such as occurred at Bhopal, and to provide the public with information on releases of toxic chemicals in their communities.

Section 313 of EPCRA established the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a national database that identifies facilities, chemicals manufactured and used at the identified facilities, and the annual amounts of these chemicals released (in routine operations and in accidents and other one-time events) and otherwise managed on- and off-site in waste.

In 1990, Congress passed the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA). Among its requirements was a mandate to expand TRI to include additional information on toxic chemicals in waste and on source reduction and other waste management methods. Beginning in 1991, covered facilities were required to report quantities of TRI chemicals recycled, combusted for energy recovery, and treated on- and off-site. This waste management data has strengthened TRI as a tool for providing information on facilities' handling of TRI chemicals in waste as well as for analyzing progress in reducing releases.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program has been a tremendously successful program and the results speak loudly for themselves. Industries have reduced their on- and off-site releases of TRI chemicals by more than 48% or 1.6 billion pounds since the TRI program began (for chemicals reportable in all years). Governments - federal, state, and local - have used the TRI to set priorities, measure progress, and target areas of special and immediate concern. The public, our most important customer, has used the TRI data to understand their local environment, to participate in local and national debates about the choices being made that may affect their health and the health of their children and, ultimately, to exert their influence on the outcome of these debates. Indeed, given the potential for using TRI data in these ways, it is important for the public to understand the limitations as well as the benefits of TRI data and the factors that should be considered before drawing conclusions from the data about risks to human health and the environment. The release estimates alone are not sufficient to determine exposure or to calculate potential adverse effects on human health and the environment The determination of potential risk depends on many factors, including toxicity, chemical fate after release, release location, and population concentrations.

Since 1987, the first year of TRI reporting, the TRI and the Right-to-Know Program has grown. The number of chemicals has doubled, federal facilities have been added, and seven new industries reported for the first time with the 1998 reporting year (See Box 2). In addition, in October, 1999, EPCRA section 313 reporting thresholds were lowered for certain persistent, bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals and certain other PBT chemicals were added to the section 313 list of toxic chemicals. The TRI data have been used by the public to identify facilities and chemical release and other waste management patterns that warrant further study and analysis. Combined with hazard and exposure information, the TRI has proven to be a valuable tool for risk screening.

TRI Reporting

Each year, facilities that meet certain activity thresholds must report their releases and other waste management activities for listed toxic chemicals to EP A and to the state or tribal entity in whose jurisdiction the facility is located. Each facility submits a TRI reporting form, known as Form R, for each TRI chemical it has manufactured, processed, or otherwise used during a given year in amounts exceeding the thresholds. Starting with the 1995 reporting year, facilities with less than 500 pounds of production-related waste that do not manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than 1 million pounds of the chemical can file a certification statement, Form A, that they are not required to report release information to TRI. Reports for each calendar year are due by July 1 of the following year. After completion of data entry

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and data quality assurance activities, the Agency makes the data available to the public in printed reports and electronically via the Internet. States also make available to the public copies of the forms filed by facilities in their jurisdiction. In addition, some states independently produce a data release report.

Who Must Report?

Who is Require to Report Under the Toxics Release Inventory?

A facility must report to TRI if it:

Operates within any of the following industry sectors:

-Manufacturing-SIC codes 20-39
-Metal mining (SIC code 10, except for SIC codes 1011, 1081, and 1094)
-Coal mining (SIC code 12, except for 1241 and extraction activities)
-Electrical utilities that combust coal and/or oil (SIC codes 4911, 4931, and 4939)
-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities (SIC code 4953)
-Chemicals and allied products wholesale distributors (SIC code 5169)
-Petroleum bulk plants and terminals (SIC code 5171)
-Solvent recovery services (SIC code 7389)
-a federal facility in any SIC code,

-Has 10 or more full-time equivalent employees, and

-Manufactures or processes more than 25,000 pounds or otherwise uses more than 10,000 pounds of any listed chemical during the calendar year. (Note that, beginning in the 2000 reporting year, reporting thresholds for certain PBT chemicals have been lowered. Those new reporting thresholds are not in effect for 1999 TRI data.)

What Must Be Reported?

Each year, facilities report to TRI the amounts of toxic chemicals released on-site to the air, water, and land and injected underground (Section 5 of TRI Form R), and the amounts of chemicals transferred off-site for recycling, energy recovery, treatment, and disposal (Section 6 of Form R).

They also report production-related waste management information on quantities recycled, combusted far energy recovery, treated, or released or otherwise disposed of, both on- and off-site. In addition, they must report on non-production related releases, specifically catastrophic or other one-time releases (Section 8 of the Form R).

Facilities provide specific identifying information, such as:

Name
Location
Type of business
Contact names
Name of parent company
Environmental permit numbers

They also provide general information about the manufacture, process, and otherwise use of the listed chemical at the facility and the maximum amount of the chemical on-site during the year. Facilities provide information about methods used to treat waste streams containing the toxic chemicals at the site and the efficiencies of those treatment methods. In addition to information about the amount of toxic chemicals sent off-site for further waste management, facilities also must specify the destination of these transfers. Beginning with the 1991 reports, facilities were required to provide information about source reduction and other pollution prevention activities, along with the quantities managed in waste by activities such as recycling. Companies must provide a production index that can help relate changes in reported quantities of toxic chemicals in waste managed to changes in production.

These additional data elements facilitate tracking of industry progress in reducing waste generation and moving towards safer management alternatives. While current TRI data cannot provide an absolute measure of pollution prevention, the data can provide new insight into the complete toxics cycle.

Information reported by facilities includes:

Basic information identifying the facility;
Name and telephone number of a contact person;
Environmental permits held;
Amounts of each listed chemical released to the environment at the facility;

Amounts of each chemical shipped from the facility to other locations for recycling, energy recovery, treat-

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ment, or disposal;
Amounts of each chemical recycled, burned for energy recovery, or treated at the facility;
Maximum amount of chemical present on-site at the facility during the year;
Types of activities conducted at the facility involving the toxic chemical; and
Source reduction activities.

What Are the Benefits and Limitations of the Data?

The TRI Program has given the public unprecedented direct access to toxic chemical release and other waste management data at the local, state, regional, and national level. Responsible use of this information can enable the public to identify potential concerns, gain a better understanding of potential risks, and work with industry and government to reduce toxic chemical releases and the risks associated with them. When combined with hazard and exposure data, this information can allow informed environmental priority-setting at the local level. More than 1,500 citizen groups have used TRI data to achieve the goal of a cleaner and healthier neighborhood.

Federal, state, and local governments can use the data to compare facilities or geographic areas, to identify hot spots, to evaluate existing environmental programs, to more effectively set regulatory priorities, and to track pollution control and waste reduction progress. TRI data, in conjunction with demographic data, can help government agencies and the public identify potential environmental justice concerns.

Industry can use the data to obtain a multi-media overview of the release and other waste management of toxic chemicals, to identify and reduce costs associated with toxic chemicals in waste, to identify promising areas of pollution prevention, to establish reduction targets, and to measure and document progress toward reduction goals. Public availability of the data has prompted many facilities to work with communities to develop effective strategies for reducing environmental and human health risks posed by releases and other waste management of toxic chemicals.

What to Consider When Using TRI Data

Users of TRI information should be aware that TRI data reflect releases and other waste management of chemicals, not exposures of the public to those chemicals. TRI data, in conjunction with other information, can be used as a starting point in evaluating exposures that may result from releases and other waste management activities which involve toxic chemicals. The determination of potential risk depends upon many factors, including the toxicity of the chemical, the fate of the chemical, the duration of exposure and the type of organism exposed.
(For more information on TRI data, including a list of Indiana TRI facilities, go to:
www.epa.gov/tri/tridata/tri00/index.htm)